The Cleveland Museum of Art

Press Release

For release: Immediately
October 21, 1997

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CENTRAL ASIA FILM FESTIVAL HEADLINES NOVEMBER FILM SERIES AT THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

(Cleveland, OH) Highlighting November's films at the Cleveland Museum of Art is a **"Central Asia Film Festival,"** a three-film mini-series presented in celebration of the museum's major exhibition of ancient silks, **When Silk Was Gold.** Film program coordinator John Ewing says: "The first of these films relates directly to the time and places that gave rise to the works of art in **When Silk Was Gold.** The other two portray the same region in more recent times. All three offer memorable visions of these faraway lands." Junya Sato's *The Silk Road* (November 14) is a lavish Japanese-Chinese co-production set in the mid-11th century. Tian Zhuangzhuang's celebrated *The Horse Thief* (November 21) is set in 1923 Tibet and portrays ageless Buddhist rituals and stunning landscapes. Ulrike Ottinger's *Joan of Arc of Mongolia* (November 28) is a campy, splendiferous epic about seven European women kidnapped by Mongol women warriors. All three are shown as part of the Friday film festival, Friday nights at 7:30. Each film $5, CMA members $4.

The museum's other November film series, every Wednesday evening at 7:00, brings independent features to the museum—all in their Cleveland premieres. Among these **"Wednesdaypendents"** are *The Lovers' Exile* (November 5), a film version of a classic Japanese Bunraku (puppet theater) play; *Kilian's Chronicle* (November 12), a tale of a European explorer and North American Indians set in the New World 500 years *before* Columbus; *sleepover* (November 19), following a group of teenagers one eventful late-summer night as peer pressure leads to tragedy; and *Fresh Kill* (November 26), a cautionary comedy about toxic waste, contaminated sushi, and other dangers of the modern age. Admission to these is $5, $4 CMA members.

Parking in museum lots is discounted after 5:00 every evening. Admission to the museum is free. See reverse for complete film descriptions.

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WEDNESDAYPENDENTS

An ongoing series of new independent films continues in November with more Cleveland premieres. Each program is $5, CMA members $4.

The Lovers' Exile
Wednesday, November 5, 7:00
(Japan/Canada, 1980, color, subtitles, 16mm, 87 min.) Directed by Marty Gross. As a prelude to Saturday's *Awaji Puppet Theater* performance, the Museum presents this acclaimed film version of a classic Japanese Bunraku play. Elaborately costumed dolls, manipulated by black-clad handlers, enact an 18th-century tragedy by Monzaemon Chikamatsu about a clerk who steals money in order to run away with a courtesan. "A theatrical event that no student of theater can afford to miss." *–NY Times.* Cleveland premiere.

Kilian's Chronicle
Wednesday, November 12, 7:00
(USA, 1994, color, 35mm, 112 min.) Directed by Pamela Berger. A Celtic slave on the run from his Viking captors is rescued by an Indian tribe in this beautifully photographed historical drama set in New England 500 years *before* Columbus. Story based on Norse legends and recent archaeological discoveries. Also known as *The Magic Stone.* Cleveland premiere.

sleepover
Wednesday, November 19, 7:00
(USA, 1995, color, 16mm, 82 min.) Directed by John Sullivan. Bored suburban teenagers embark on a midnight outing that leads to catastrophe in this frightening coming-of-age tale. "A most accomplished debut." *–L.A. Times.* Cleveland premiere. Preceded at 7:00 by Jonathan Reiss's *A Bitter Message of Hopeless Grief,* a 13-minute short film from Survival Research Laboratories (S.R.L.).

Fresh Kill
Wednesday, November 26, 7:00
(USA, 1996, color, 35mm, 88 min.) Directed by Shu Lea Cheang, with Sarita Choudhury. Surreal, scattershot political comedy—described as "a cyberpunk lesbian fantasy"—about two young women caught up in a global exchange of industrial waste via contaminated sushi. Features appearances by Karen Finley, Ron Vawter, and other performance artists. Cleveland premiere.

CENTRAL ASIA FILM FESTIVAL

Three films set have been programmed to coincide with the museum's exhibition of textiles *When Silk Was Gold.* Each film $5, CMA members $4.

The Silk Road
Friday, November 14, 7:30
(Japan/China, 1992, color, subtitles, 126 min.) Directed by Junya Sato. A scholar turns soldier and falls in love with a princess in this sweeping, lavish historical epic set in 11th-century China. (Movie may be presented in 35 mm format of projected from videotape.)

The Horse Thief
Friday, November 21, 7:30
(China, 1986, color, subtitles, 35mm, 98 min.) Directed by Tian Zhuangzhuang. Exotic, spellbinding, and visually sumptuous drama about a destitute Tibetan tribesman who brings retribution upon himself when he steals some horses.

Joan of Arc of Mongolia
Friday, November 28, 7:00
(W. Germany, 1989, color, subtitles, 35mm, 165 min.) Directed by Ulrike Ottinger, with Delphine Seyrig and Irm Hermann. Sumptuous, sensuous, campy epic in which seven western women on board the Trans-Siberian Express are ambushed and kidnapped by a tribe of Mongol women warriors. Filmed on location in Inner Mongolia. "Wickedly delightful. Who would have believed that life in a yurt could hold this many temptations? Sophisticated, mysterious and deliriously beautiful." *–Los Angeles Times.*

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